

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 97-6

held

Friday, 26 September 1997, at 10:00 a.m. in GM 403-2

Present: Dr. N. Esmail (Chair); Dr. J.W. Atwood; Dr. R. Bhat; Dr. T. Fancott; Dr. P. Fazio; Dr. C. Giguère; Dr. G. Gouw; Dr. A.M. Hanna; Ms. L. Harris (Library); Dr. S. Hoa; Dr. J. Jans; Dr. A. Krzyzak; Dr. C. Lam; Mr. S. Melski (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. E. Plotkin; Mr. A. Richards (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. T. Stathopoulos; Dr. C. Trueman; Dr. G. Turski (Secretary); Dr. G. Vatistas; Dr. M. Zaheeruddin; Dr. R. Zmeureanu

Regrets: Dr. H.F. Li; Dr. J. Svoboda

Guests: Dr. A. Ramamurthy

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 97-6-1 The agenda was unanimously adopted (T. Stathopoulos, T. Fancott)

2. Adoption of Minutes

Referring to item 4.3 and Motion 97-4-9 stated that the nomination and approval of the candidate for the Jan Saber Medal for Industrial Engineering was made in error, since at 3.16 the individual in question did not have a sufficiently high GPA to merit the award. As he was at the time unaware of the minimum GPA requirement for receipt of the award, Dr. Hoa said that this nomination was made by him in good faith. By informing Council about the error he wanted to ensure, for the record, that it would not set a precedent in future nominations of academic awards.

Motion 97-6-2 The Minutes of the Meeting 97-4 (23 May 1997) were unanimously approved (T. Stathopoulos, R. Bhat)

Motion 97-6-3 The Minutes of the Meeting 97-5 (30 May 1997) were unanimously approved (G. Gouw, P. Fazio)

Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed all members of Council. He conveyed that he was very excited about joining the Faculty and about its opportunities and prospects.

Dr. Esmail stated that he sees his role as Dean of the Faculty primarily as a catalyst for the energies, motivations, talents and potential that exist here, and that the shape of the Faculty will ultimately be determined by the collective decision of its members. He emphasized the critical function of teamwork, fairness, cooperation, and allegiance to the Faculty and the University for any successful development.

The potential rewards of collective success are enormous, entailing, among others, a vibrant and happy workplace for all. The Dean pledged to set an example and to work very hard to reach this goal, and asked all to support his vision of the Faculty.

The Dean informed that the quality and development of teaching will be among the priorities of his mandate, and that the already strong research activities in the Faculty should be geared as much as possible towards industrial partners and contacts with them. These aspects should be integrated into the career development of faculty members and reflected in the criteria and procedures bearing on hiring, promotion, and tenure.

While in the longer term future his ultimate goal is to secure a building for the Faculty so that it can be housed in one (or at most two) location(s), more immediately attention must be turned toward improving student enrollment in the School for Building, strengthening the Industrial Engineering program, continuing developing the Multi-Media program in Computer Science, ensuring the ongoing success of the Computer Engineering program, and developing more extensively the cooperative education program. Dr. Esmail also emphasized the critical nature of faculty hiring, since the persons hired today will be the leaders and administrators of the Faculty tomorrow.

The Chair formally announced the results of the accreditation process and noted its very successful outcome. He informed that the Civil Engineering program was accredited for the maximum six years, while the programs in Mechanical, Building, Electrical, and Computer Engineering, were accredited for three years and will be automatically accredited for a further three on condition they provide to the CEAB in Fall 1999 a satisfactory progress report on improvements suggested by the Board. Only the Industrial Engineering program is presently slated for a regular visit in 1999.

After briefly outlining the career highlights and achievements of Dr. A. Ramamurthy, Dr. Esmail congratulated him for being recently elected as Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and handed him the official ASME attestation of this honour. The Secretary took a commemorative photograph of the occasion.

4. School for Building Representation on Council

Motion 97-6-4 That the School for Building be represented on Faculty Council, as of Council's next meeting on 24 October 1997, by four faculty members from the School and the School's Chair, and that this resolution be recommended to Senate for approval and subsequent recommendation to the Board of Governors (P. Fazio, A. Hanna)

Vote: Carried unanimously

5. Graduate Curriculum Changes (ECFC Doc. 97-6-1)

In introducing ECFC Doc. 97-6-1, Dr. Stathopoulos explained that although the dossier on graduate curriculum has been passed on to Dr. Vatisstas, he is handling it at Council because the approval process for the proposed curriculum changes started when he still held the portfolio of the Associate Dean, Academic and Administrative Affairs. However, Dr. Vatisstas will handle these curriculum changes after they are approved by Council.

Dr. Stathopoulos informed that the Graduate Studies Committee has met and discussed extensively the curriculum changes proposed by the academic units. Outlined in detail in the document (and reported in summary form at its beginning), the changes are hereby recommended to Council for consideration and approval.

Motion 97-6-5 That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science adopt the proposed curriculum changes in Computer Science as outlined in the CS Section of ECFC Doc. 97-6-1 and recommend them to the School of Graduate Studies and Senate for approval and implementation (T. Stathopoulos, C. Lam)

Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion 97-6-6 That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science adopt the proposed curriculum changes in Electrical and Computer Engineering as outlined in the ECE Section of ECFC Doc. 97-6-1 and recommend them to the School of

Graduate Studies and Senate for approval and implementation (T. Stathopoulos, C. Trueman)

Dr. Bhat asked whether, in regard to the course ELEC 650, it is necessary to state the permission of the instructor as a prerequisite to it. A brief discussion involving Dr. Giguère concluded with a decision that this prerequisite can be deleted from the course's description.

Amendment That in regard to the course ELEC 650 the permission of the instructor is not needed and, as such, the statement to the contrary can be removed from the course's description (R. Bhat, C. Giguère)

Vote on the amendment: Carried unanimously

Vote on the motion as amended: Carried unanimously

Motion 97-6-7 That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science adopt the proposed curriculum changes in Mechanical Engineering as outlined in the ME Section of ECFC Doc. 97-6-1 and recommend them to the School of Graduate Studies and Senate for approval and implementation (T. Stathopoulos, S. Hoa)

Dr. Giguère asked whether in the proposed new Certificate Program the courses would be offered in such a way as to allow the participants to finish the program in one year. Dr. Stathopoulos explained that while not all of the courses in the program would be offered each year, in any given year a sufficient number of courses would be given to allow the students to obtain the 15 credits requisite for graduation.

Dr. Fancott observed that while currently this is not the practice, converting (a sufficient number of) Graduate Certificates into a graduate degree might merit consideration in the future; such an arrangement could certainly be used as a powerful marketing tool.

Vote: Carried unanimously

6. Recommendations to Amend the Faculty Election Procedures (ECFC Doc. 97-6-3)

Dr. Hanna provided the rationale behind ECFC Doc. 97-6-3 and read out the proposed amendments to the Faculty Election Procedures. In addition, he read out a motion regarding the possibility that in certain circumstances Faculty Council could hold elections to replace persons in positions that would normally be filled

through a Faculty-wide electoral process. After due consideration and discussion, the following motions were proposed.

Motion 97-6-8 That the last sentence of Article 1 be changed and replaced by the following:
"The specific composition of the Committee shall be such that regular members and their alternates will represent all of the Faculty's academic units (G. Gouw, C. Lam)

Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion 97-6-9 That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve, as Article 3.6--with the remaining subsequent articles appropriately renumbered--the following: "A valid ballot is a ballot cast by an eligible voter (as defined in Article 3.4) that is not spoiled. A blank ballot will be considered invalid. However, each ballot shall contain a rubric for abstention and a ballot indicating an abstention shall be considered valid (T. Stathopoulos, A. Hanna)

Vote: 12 in favour; 4 against; 1 recorded abstention

Motion 97-6-10 That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve, as Article 3.13--with the remaining subsequent articles appropriately renumbered--the following: "However, if after any two consecutive voting rounds the number of candidates is not reduced, the election is stopped and the Elections Committee shall declare candidate(s) elected according to the number of votes received. In the event of a tie the winner(s) shall be declared by a draw (W. Atwood, C. Giguère)

Vote: Carried, with two recorded abstentions

Motion 97-6-11 That Article 3.10 be modified to read as follows: "Following the first ballot, if the number of remaining candidates exceeds by more than one the number of vacancies remaining to be filled, the candidate(s) receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the ballot in the next round of voting." (T. Stathopoulos, A. Hanna)

Vote: Carried unanimously

In addition to the above motions regarding the content of the Faculty Election Procedures, the following motion about the conditions under which Council can appoint replacements to positions already occupied and normally filled through Faculty-wide elections was also proposed.

Motion 97-6-12 That the Faculty Council, at the request of the Dean, may, if it deems necessary, appoint replacements of a duration of up to one year for positions already occupied and normally filled through Faculty-wide elections (T. Fancott, A. Hanna)

Vote: Carried unanimously

7. Election and Approval of a Faculty Representative on the Computer Resources Committee for 1997-98 (ECFC Doc. 97-6-3)

Dr. Turski informed that the Secretary of Senate has requested Council to elect a replacement for Dr. R. Rajagopalan (currently on a one-year leave) as the Faculty's representative on the Computer Resources Committee for the academic year 1997-98, and that Dr. K. Demirli is willing to serve on the committee, if elected.

Motion 97-6-13 That Dr. K. Demirli be appointed as the Faculty's representative on the Computer Resources Committee for the academic year 1997-98, in replacement of Dr. R. Rajagopalan who is currently on leave from the University (S. Hoa, C. Giguère)

Motion: Carried unanimously

8. Election and Approval of Faculty Representatives on the Academic Hearing Board and the Senate Appeals Committee on Academic Misconduct (SACAM) (ECFC Doc. 97-6-4)

Dr. Turski informed that the Secretary of Senate has requested Council to elect two representatives from the Faculty for the Academic Hearing Board and one representative for the Senate Appeals Committee on Academic Misconduct, and that Drs. J. Campanelli, V. Ramachandran, and F. Haghighat are willing to serve on these bodies, if elected.

Motion 97-6-14 That Dr. J. Campanelli be appointed as the Faculty's representative to the Academic Hearing Board for the term 1997-98 and Dr. V. Ramachandran be appointed to the same body for the term 1997-99 (P. Fazio, C. Giguère)

Vote: Carried unanimously

Motion 97-6-15 That Dr. F. Haghighat be appointed as the Faculty's representative to the Senate Appeals Committee on Academic Misconduct for the term 1997-99 (W. Atwood. S. Hoa)

Vote: Carried unanimously

It was noted that although such elections as above are restricted to Council members, in the future a Faculty-wide call for nominations for the positions to be voted on by Council may perhaps be appropriate.

9. Election and Approval of Membership of the Faculty Appeals Committee

Dr. Turski informed that Drs. V. Ramachandran, J. Campanelli, W. Ghaly, L. Narayanan, F. Haghighat and Ms. S. Parimelalagan and Mr. D. Hinton are willing to serve on the Faculty's Appeals Committee during the academic year 1997-98, if elected by Council.

Motion 97-6-16 That Drs. V. Ramachandran, J. Campanelli, W. Ghaly, L. Narayanan, F. Haghighat and Ms. S. Parimelalagan and Mr. D. Hinton be appointed to the Faculty Appeals Committee for the academic year 1997-98

Vote: Carried unanimously

10. Other

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.